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The President's Daily Brief

26 October 1972

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Top Secret

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

26 October 1972

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

One of the top three Lao Communist leaders has joined the Pathet Lao negotiating team, a further sign that the Lao Communists believe the time is right for serious peace negotiations. *(Page 1)*

Cuba

(Page 2)

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Tito's purge of the Serbian party has begun with the "resignations" over the weekend of party chief Nikezic and his deputy. *(Page 3)*

Iraq Soviet

(Page 3)

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LAOS

One of the top three Lao Communist leaders, Phoumi Vongvichit, has joined the Pathet Lao negotiating team.

> *His presence as "special adviser" on the delegation is a further sign that the Lao Communists believe the time is right for serious peace negotiations.*

Both the government and the Communists have now assumed bargaining positions based on their well-known public views on political issues. At the second session of the talks on 24 October the chief Communist negotiator, although castigating the government for lack of "good will and realism," held out the hope of constructive dialogue by admitting that "certain points" in Vientiane's position are "capable of bringing us together."

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USSR-CUBA

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NOTES

Yugoslavia: Tito's purge of the Serbian party has begun with the "resignations" over the weekend of party chief Nikezic and his deputy. A wider purge is in the offing in Serbia and may spread to the Vojvodina autonomous province--whose party is affiliated with the Serb organization--and where the party leadership is also under attack for failure to heed Tito's orders to recentralize party authority. Tito's plans for a radical tightening of party discipline from the federal level on down may also be leading to a growth of party factionalism on a local level in other sections of the country.

Iraq-USSR:

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